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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/976,054

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Nordine Cheikh

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11/13/2007

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

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EXAMINER

ALLEN, MARIANNE P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1647

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,054

Applicant(s)

CHEIKH ET AL.

Examiner

Marianne P. Allen

Art Unit

1647

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17, 20-23 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-23 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17, 20-23, 25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed 6/6/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 20-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a new matter rejection.

This rejection is maintained for reasons of record.

Applicant now argues that the disclosure on page 83, lines 16-17, ("Exogenous genetic material may be transferred into a plant cell and the plant cell by the use of a DNA vector or construct designed for such a purpose...") and page 88, line 20, ("A vector or construct may also include regulatory elements...") serves as basis for these claims because the use of "may" indicates that these elements are not required. This is not agreed with.

The specification does not disclose production of any plants using polynucleotides in the absence of regulatory elements. In fact, the paragraph immediately preceding page 83, lines 16-17, is concerned with expression of proteins in a transformed cell or plant:

Transfer of a nucleic acid that encodes for a protein can result in overexpression of that protein in a transformed cell or transgenic plant. One or more of the proteins or fragments thereof encoded by nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be overexpressed in a transformed cell or transformed plant. Particularly, any of the cytokinin pathway proteins or fragments thereof may be overexpressed in a transformed cell or transgenic plant. Such overexpression may be the result of transient or stable transfer of the exogenous genetic material.

As such, a fair reading of this portion of the specification would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to understand that SEQ ID NO: 5 (an incomplete sequence that does not encode a complete protein) would not be intended and that vector constructs that have regulatory features for expression would have been required. Pages 83-105 are concerned with expression of sequences. These sequences would need to be in the context of regulatory sequences such as promoters. The specification does not disclose the inclusion of sequences, particularly SEQ ID NO: 5, in a plant where they are not intended to be expressed and/or not in a construct suitable for that purpose.

Again, claims 21-22 are directed to a transformed host cell that is not required to be isolated. As such, these claims embrace transgenic organisms.

The amendment to claim 23 does not obviate this rejection. As amended, this claim embraces a transformed plant comprising host cells from any organism. There is no contemplation or basis for this invention.

Again, claim 25 is directed to a transformed plant consisting of a single type of transformed host cell. A plant of this type is not disclosed nor contemplated. Applicant has not responded to this portion of the rejection.

Applicant has not pointed out by page and line number where every limitation of claims 20-23 and 25 can be found.

Claims 20-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains,

or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. This is an enablement rejection.

This rejection is maintained for reasons of record.

The nucleic acid of claim 12 encodes a partial but not full length sequence encoding a maize adenine phosphoribosyl transferase. (See prior Office actions for a complete discussion of SEQ ID NO: 5.) For those claims that merely require the presence of the nucleic acid in the host cell or plant but not in a context or form where any protein is expressed, the specification does not tell how to use such transformed host cells or plants. For those claims that encompass the nucleic acid in the host cell or plant in a context or form where a protein may be expressed, the nucleic acid of claim 12 does not encode a complete or biologically active protein. The specification does not tell how to use such a transformed host cells or plants.

Applicant argues that there are some nucleic acids that do not encode proteins that have well-recognized utility, such as promoters and tRNAs. However, SEQ ID NO: 5 is not a promoter or tRNA and is not a nucleic acid sequence that has a well-recognized utility when present in a transformed plant.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne P. Allen whose telephone number is 571-272-0712. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 5:30 am - 2:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manjunath N. Rao can be reached on 571-272-0939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marianne P. Allen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1647

mpa